

4-16

IN RE:

INVESTIGATION OF HOMOSEXUAL
ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF FLORIDA

SWORN STATEMENTS of witnesses, taken before
NATHAN L. FRIEDMAN, a Notary Public of the State of
Florida at Large, in and for Hillsborough County,
in answer to questions propounded by MARK R. HAWES,
Esq., Chief Counsel for the Florida Legislative
Investigation Committee, there being present at
various times SENATOR W. RANDOLPH HODGES, Member of
the Committee, R. J. STRICKLAND, Investigator for
the Committee, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]-
[REDACTED] of the Campus Police, University of Florida.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(The statements of the following witnesses were taken at the Manor Motel, Gainesville, Florida, on Tuesday, January 20, 1958, beginning at 10:15 o'clock, a.m.)

MR. HAWES: You are [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

MR. HAWES: [REDACTED] I'm Mark Hawes; I'm Counsel for the Florida Legislative Investigations Committee.

This gentleman here is Senator Randolph Hodges, from Cedar Key.

SENATOR HODGES: How are you?

[REDACTED] How are you, Senator?

MR. HAWES: He's a member of our Committee.

[REDACTED] I think you know - - -

[REDACTED] How are you, Mr. [REDACTED]

MR. HAWES: - - - he's a member of the police force out at the University of Florida campus. This gentleman is

Nat Friedman; he's our Reporter.

[REDACTED] Uh huh.

MR. HAWES: [REDACTED] we've asked you to come out here because this Committee is conducting, as quietly as we can and with as little notoriety as we can, an investigation into the extent of homosexual activity out here on this campus - - -

[REDACTED] Yes, I heard about it.

MR. HAWES: - - - among students and faculty members, and between those two groups and other people in this area.

We have the power to subpoena witnesses; that involves making a public record at a public hearing, however, with the press being in attendance.

We've asked many people, including yourself, because we have information that you might be able to give us some information, to come here voluntarily and give us a statement, in executive session.

We're doing it in that manner to

protect this University out here, insofar as we can, and the individuals involved. We don't want to hurt the school, we don't want to hurt any of the individuals involved any more than possible.

Under those conditions, [REDACTED] are you willing to give us a voluntary statement of what you know or might know about this matter?

[REDACTED] I am very willing to help you, insofar as I made a statement to Mr. Strickland, I believe his name is, sometime ago.

Should I go on now, or what?

MR. HAWES: Well, you're willing to make the statement to us, then, are you?

[REDACTED] I'll tell you, sir, before I make any recorded statement right now - - - I am willing to, but I tell you that I am not homosexual - - -

MR. HAWES: I want to say to you - -

[REDACTED] - - - not at all.

MR. HAWES: I want to say to you,

[REDACTED] you are not, from any

information we have, in any way involved as being accused in any way by anybody of being a homosexual yourself. I was going to tell you that in a minute, but

- - -

[REDACTED] Well, that is a big load off my mind.

MR. HAWES: You're not implicated in this matter personally.

[REDACTED] Well, that's good.

MR. HAWES: Well, you're not; you may be assured of that, sir.

Are you willing to give us a statement, sir?

[REDACTED] I surely am.

MR. HAWES: Swear him, Nat.

Thereupon,

[REDACTED]
having been duly sworn upon his oath, stated, in answer to questions propounded, as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. HAWES:

Q State your full name, please sir.

A My name is [REDACTED]

Q How old are you, [REDACTED]

A Twenty-six, sir.

Q Where do you live, sir?

A My home address?

Q Yes.

A My family lives in Hobe Sound, Florida.

Q What is your address here?

A Here? [REDACTED]

Q Thomas H?

A H.

Q That's - - -

A Section H.

Q - - - a dormitory?

A Dormitory.

Q And how old are you, sir?

A Twenty-six.

Q Are you married?

A No, I'm not.

Q Have you ever been?

A No.

Q Your first name is [REDACTED] isn't it?

A [REDACTED] yes.

Q You are a student at the University?

A I am.

Q What year are you in, sir?

A Sophomore.

Q When did you come here?

A September of '57, last year.

Q 1957?

A Uh huh.

Q Now, [REDACTED], I want to tell you the Committee's position in this matter and the position of the witnesses that are here before the Committee.

As I've already told you, you're not implicated in this matter personally; and the position of the Committee in this thing is that this is not a criminal investigation; this is a civil investigation, seeking information to inform the Legislature as to the extent of this problem out here, so that we may take whatever intelligent action can be taken to eradicate the situation, or at least cut down on it.

A All right.

Q Of course, you're under oath; you realize that?

A Oh, yes.

Q You know what perjury is?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q And you know what - - -anything about the penalty for perjury in this state?

A Well, just in general terms. I don't know

the law.

Q It's a penitentiary offense.

A Uh huh.

Q Now, [REDACTED] all in the world we want you to do is to tell us the truth, in your mind. We don't want you to implicate any innocent person here, and we don't want you to add anything or detract anything - - -

A No.

Q - - - from the facts, as you know them. Do you understand?

A Yes.

Q Just straight, right down the line, the truth about what you know about this situation.

A Yes.

Q [REDACTED] do you know any member of the faculty at the University to be a homosexual?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you know any student out there to be a homosexual?

A No, I do not.

Q Now, you're talking about your personal knowledge?

A Yes.

Q You never had any personal relationship,

sexual relationship, with any of them?

A Definitely not.

Q Didn't you run with a crowd of boys out there that, for a while, anyhow, that were pretty well known, or had the reputation as being homosexuals?

A This is what I assume asked me to be called in the first time.

[REDACTED] - - - [REDACTED] here, saw me in the notorious Burger House one night which, I hear, has quite a reputation, and I was a little drunk; in fact, I was very drunk, and I, to this day, do not remember exactly who I spoke to that night, but I can only assume that this may be the reason.

Now, as I told Mr. Strickland when I spoke to him some time ago, a long time ago, I have known quite a few people on campus who - - - well, I know quite a few people on campus, period, but some of them I feel possibly may be homosexual, and may not. I am well aware of the tendencies, the outward appearances; some people seem to have them, some people don't. I don't dwell on the situation myself; I don't pay any attention to it. Some I have noticed more than others; that's true.

Sometimes - - -

Q You mentioned the reputation of the Burger House?

A Yes sir.

Q What kind of reputation has that place got out there?

A I have heard - - - in fact, it's even been in the Alligator - - - what's this fellow with the beard? - - - [REDACTED] talks about it as the - - - as the - - - what did he say one time?

Oh, I don't know, he made a reputation - - - or made a comment about it being the haven of the Bohemian set, or something to that effect, plus the fact that I have heard people say that that's the place where the queers hang out, but that - - -

Q Out there among the students - - - that place is right across the street from the campus?

A Well, it's across - - - almost on the University.

Q There's a lot of talk about it being a place where homosexuals hang out out there, isn't it?

A That's what I have heard. I don't see where it gets the reputation like that. Honest to God, I don't.

Q Have you spent much time in there, sir?

A Last year I was in there on the week ends, sometimes; sometimes I was in Sands. This year I was in there three or four times at the beginning of the year. I started getting bogged down on my studies, and I don't think I've been back over there, oh, I don't know, maybe a half a dozen times.

Q Art, have you ever been approached in that place?

A I told Mr. Strickland, last time I spoke to him, yes, I was once, last year.

Q By a student?

A (The witness hesitated)

Q If you don't know - - -

A No, I can only assume that it was a student. Now, I don't have any proof that he was, but it's natural to assume that he was. He looked like a student.

Q You don't know who he was?

A No, I don't, honest to God. I've never seen him since.

Q Did you see him before that?

A Yes, I think so. I think he was in there before.

Q In the same place?

A Yes. I think I had seen him on campus before; I can't recall. You see so damned many people.

Q [REDACTED] do you know a boy named [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]

Q [REDACTED]

A Yes, from the Burger House set. I've seen him in there.

Q What does he do? Is he a student out there?

A Yes, I guess so. I see him on campus.

Q Did he ever work at the Burger House?

A I don't know that, Mr. Hawes.

Q Well, you - - -

A I don't have anything to do with the boy myself.

Q What do you know about him?

A I know that he's the type person that I don't like to associate with.

Q Does he run with that alleged homosexual crowd in there?

A That I'm not sure to say.

As I say, he - - - I don't like the guy's personal actions, his attitudes, and I don't associate with him at all.

say.

Now, he is the type person who might be, but I don't know, I can't say, to be positive.

MR. HAWES: Hold the record there a minute.

(Discussion off the record)

THE WITNESS: May I ask a question?

BY MR. HAWES:

Q Yes sir, go ahead.

A Is this [REDACTED] fellow, is he the one who told you - - - told you to call me down here?

Q No sir.

A Well, I didn't know. You didn't tell me that, and - - -

Q Nobody has told us to call anybody down here. We call people that we have information that leads us to believe they might know something about this thing.

A Uh huh.

Q That's your case. Others we call because we have information, very strong information, that they are homosexuals. We don't call a man down here where he's personally implicated, unless we have very strong information on him.

Do you understand?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q [REDACTED] out there among the students on the campus, do you hear any talk - - - I'm not asking you to name which professors it is - - - do you hear any talk out there among the student body in reference to certain of the professors being homosexual?

A You hear talk at times, yes, about some of the professors being kind of funny, but I wonder, Mr. Hawes, a lot of times, I don't - - - I don't dwell on the thing myself, because you've got a problem in your professor capacity, your teaching capacity out there.

A lot of those guys, I assume, are old, that are widowers - - - maybe they have never been married, I don't know - - - they get so damned wrapped up in their work that they become - - - they actually become - - - they act kind of funny, and I think this, very truthfully, in a lot of respects, is what causes the students to talk about the guys, as to the professors.

Yes, there is talk once in a while about some of them. I don't know; I don't pass it on myself. I've been in Service, and I've seen things that have come up because of talk like this, and I

can't see any sense in passing in on unless I have some definite knowledge of it.

Q Yes.

A Which I don't.

Q Do you have any idea of the number of students - - - I'm not asking you who they are, but, roughly, the number of students that you've come in contact with, or have come in contact with out there that you would think - - - among your acquaintances there - - - might be homosexual?

A That narrows it down, Mr. Hawes, when you say among my acquaintances.

Q Well - - -

A You see, I don't know a hell of a lot of people.

Q - - - not your acquaintances, your intimate acquaintances, but people that you've been - - -

A Yes.

Q - - - observing around there, and - - -

A I wish you'd give me a week to keep a tally on this; I might be able to come up with a better answer. It's kind of hard to think now.

A lot of these people, I haven't the slightest idea who they are; I don't even know their names.

Q I'm not going to ask you for their names - - -

A Well, yes, I know - - -

Q - - - because we - - -

A - - - I'm trying to think, in my own mind - - -

Q I don't want any man named in this record we are making, on suspicion or rumor - - -

A Yes.

Q - - - or hearsay.

Do you understand that?

A I do understand that, yes.

Q I'm trying to get from you an idea of the number that you've observed around there among the students that you, based on your experience and observation, think are, maybe, homosexual.

A Yes, I understand that, sir.

Well, whatever it's going to be, it's going to be an arbitrary number, because, of course, I don't keep any records, that's for sure.

I think a conservative number, possibly, Mr. Hawes, would be ten or twelve that I have seen, possibly, just by accident, possibly for some cause, maybe I've been introduced to them, maybe not, that appeared to me that they might have been.

Q That would be a conservative number?

A I think - - - yes, I honestly would be

- - -

Q [REDACTED] let me ask you this: Do you use any of the rest rooms out there on the campus?

A Oh, sure, you have to.

Q Have you ever been in the one by the library? In the library building?

A Well, sure, I go in there all the time, yes sir. Which one? There are two of them - - -

Q The one upstairs.

A - - - one upstairs and one downstairs.

Q Yes. Did you ever go into one of those rest room, and there'd be another man in the next booth, or one would come in after you went in, and hear him tap his foot on the floor or - - -

A Sure.

Q What?

A Sure, you see that.

Q Sit there and tap his foot on the floor?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q Do you know what that is, what it means?

A Well, there's only one thing - - - I mean you could guess what he wants.

I don't have anything for them. I've

seen that before. I guess most everybody has in public rest rooms.

Q Have you seen that happen there in the rest room at the library?

A Yes.

Q Upstairs?

A I'll tell you what I do - - - no.

Q Downstairs?

A I've seen it happen downstairs. I just get up and get out of there as soon as I can.

Q What other rest rooms has that - - - our testimony from the people that admit that they're homosexuals is that that is the manner in which they make an approach for a homosexual contact out there.

A Uh huh.

Q What other rest rooms have you had that experience in?

A That's the only one on campus I've ever seen; that's the only one that it ever happened to me.

No, I can't think of any other.

Q Of course, you didn't know who was in the other booth?

A (The witness nodded negatively)

Q Didn't see him, even?

A (The witness nodded negatively)

Q Is that the only one you can think of on campus?

A Yes. I'm trying to think. I - - - well, this, maybe, shouldn't be on the record, I don't know, but I mean, as far as that kind of activity in the john, I usually try to take care of all those things before I leave in the morning, but occasionally, you get caught short, and you've got to use a rest room, but I don't make a habit of it.

I think that - - - yes, that's about the only one, I think, I've ever had any trouble like that in. I mean, I guess there are more on campus, but I don't know.

Q Do you use that rest room very often?

A No, I don't study in the library a hell of a lot, to begin with. I try to do my studying in my room. The noise is too - - - too much distraction in there.

Q You have had that experience there in that rest room there?

A I sure have.

Q Do you know of anything else that might be of any help to us, [REDACTED]

Let me ask you this: When a student

comes on to this campus, is there any administrative policy of the school towards homosexual conduct laid down for them?

A Oh, I never thought about that. Let me think a minute.

Not that I can remember. I don't think there is anything said at all.

Q In your experience out there, have you ever seen any indication of what the administration's stand is towards homosexual contact among the students or faculty members out there?

A I've never seen anything, nor have I heard of anything, as far as the administration's policy is concerned.

There is nothing - - - God, there are no rules or anything, or suggestions, you know, set forth.

Q You've never encountered any indication of what the administration's stand is, one way or the other?

A No, no. I guess they would be against it. Hell, they'd have to be, as far as - - - as far as any actual activity or - - - where you would have rings of people, or something out there, groups.

Q You would assume that?

A Yes - - - well, it's the only natural assumption that I could make. Hell, I mean, you wouldn't have a very strong university if you didn't assume that.

Q But you don't know of any - - - you've never seen any evidence or indication of just what their policy is, or what the consequences of engaging in that sort of conduct is to a student or faculty member out there?

A No sir, I haven't.

MR. HAWES: Do you have any questions?

SENATOR HODGES: No.

MR. HAWES: Thank you, [REDACTED] for coming down. That's all.

(Witness excused)

MR. HAWES: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]: Yes sir.

MR. HAWES: What is your full name again, sir?

[REDACTED]: [REDACTED]
MR. HAWES: You're the same [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who was sworn and testified - - -

[REDACTED]: Yes sir.

MR. HAWES: - - - down at the Hotel Thomas, week before last?

[REDACTED]: Yes sir.

MR. HAWES: Are you willing to be bound by the same oath you took last week - - - or rather, week before last?

[REDACTED]: Yes sir.

MR. HAWES: Are you, sir?

[REDACTED]: Yes sir.

MR. HAWES: All right, sir.

Are you the man that swore him?

(Addressing the Reporter)

(The Reporter indicated
in the negative)

MR. HAWES: Well, you'd better swear him again, because our Notary isn't here.